

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 were pending. By this Amendment, claim 35 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and independent claims 1, 9, 10, 22-24, 26-28 have been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claim 35. Accordingly, claims 1-34 are now pending and presented for continued examination, with claims 1, 9, 10, 22-24 and 26-28 being in independent form.

Claims 1-25 and 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,052,445 to Bashoura et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,437,871 to Yuki and U.S. Patent 5,381,527 to Inniss et al. Claims 26-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being purportedly unpatentable over Bashoura in view of Inniss.

The Office Action also indicated that claim 35 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claim 35. Independent claims 9, 10, 22, 23, 24, 26-28 have similarly been amended to include the features of claim 35.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, 10, 22-24 and 26-28 of the present application, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

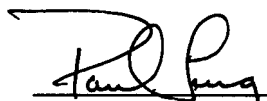
Applicant appreciates the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication in the Office Action of allowable subject matter and submits that the pending claims recite subject matter which further supports patentability for reasons in addition to those identified in the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

In view of the claim amendments and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Teng", is written over a horizontal line.

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